

What's New in the MPDC

DECEMBER 23, 2002

MPDC PROVIDES PUBLIC NOTICE ON PLANS TO DEPLOY CCTV CAMERAS DURING JANUARY 2003 MAJOR EVENTS

The public is invited to submit comments in writing regarding a particular deployment, or the CCTV system in general, to the Chief of Police, Metropolitan Police Department, 300 Indiana Avenue, NW, Room 5080, Washington, DC, 20001, or via e-mail at chief@mpdc.org.

The MPDC this week provided public notice that it plans to deploy Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras to assist with crowd management and public safety during two large-scale demonstrations scheduled for January 2003 in DC. During anti-war demonstrations scheduled for January 17-19, the MPDC plans to activate its existing network of 14 permanent cameras and to deploy additional cameras on a temporary basis in the vicinity of the following public areas: Farragut Square,

NW, Malcolm X Park, NW, Dupont Circle, NW (north end), Marine Barracks, 8th and Eye Streets, SE, and the proposed march route from the US Capitol (West Senate Park) to the Washington Navy Yard/Marine Barracks area. Then on January 22, when a large pro-life demonstration is scheduled, the MPDC plans to deploy additional temporary cameras on Constitution Avenue, NW, between the Washington Monument and 3rd Street, NW, and outside the US Supreme Court. Pursuant to Title 24 DCMR, Chapter 25, the MPDC is required to provide advance public notice of plans to deploy CCTV cameras. For additional information on the planned deployment and the general capabilities of the CCTV system, click on:

mpdc.dc.gov (Click on News Room)

REMINDER: ENFORCEMENT OF NEW CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY LAW BEGINS AFTER CHRISTMAS

Enforcement of the DC's newly enhanced child passenger safety law will begin in earnest on December 26, 2002, following a month-long public education period in which police officers issued only warnings but no citations. The new law requires for the first time that all children under the age of 8 be properly seated in an installed infant, toddler or booster child safety seat. The new law increases penalties for drivers who do not properly secure child passengers – from \$55 to \$75, plus 2 points, for a first offense. Second and subsequent offenses carry even higher fines – up to \$150 – and require attendance at a child restraint safety class. The increased fines under the law will fund DC's Child Passenger Safety Program, under which the District Department of Transportation will establish at least one child passenger safety seat fitting station in each of the eight wards and children of low-income families will be provided with child restraint systems for free or at a minimal cost. During recent seat belt and child safety seat checkpoints, DDOT and the MPDC gave away several free child safety seats. Get more information on DC laws governing seat belts and child passenger safety seats:

For details on DC's Child Passenger Safety Program, including the 14 current locations where child safety seats are distributed at a reduced rate, visit DDOT's Website at:

ddot.dc.gov/services/traffic_services/safety.shtm

mpdc.dc.gov/info/family/cseatlaw.shtm

AFTER THE PRESENTS ARE OPENED THIS YEAR ... DON'T FORGET ABOUT BURGLARY PREVENTION

Burglars know that many households have new, and oftentimes expensive, items in their homes following the December holidays – especially new computers and peripherals, stereo components, televisions, cameras and other electronic equipment. In too many cases, residents make it easy for burglars to figure out which homes to target by putting boxes that identify their new gifts in plain view with their other garbage. Avoid becoming an easy target for post-holiday burglars by not leaving boxes for new electronics and other items in the alley or other garbage pick-up locations for several days at a time. Instead, break down any boxes you are throwing out, put them in garbage bags and place them inside a trashcan. (In many cases, especially with computer equipment, you probably want to keep the boxes for safe storage, shipping or moving in the future.) Think about keeping broken-down boxes inside – in a garage, for example – until the evening before your regular garbage pick-up. Some burglars actually look inside garbage cans for evidence of holiday gifts. And, of course, if you see someone suspicious casing your alley, call the Metropolitan Police Department's non-emergency number, 3-1-1; if you see a burglary in progress, call 9-1-1. For a complete list of winter holiday safety tips for shoppers, travelers and when you're at home, visit:

mpdc.dc.gov/info/season/winter.shtm

NEWS & NOTES

- **Civilian Job Vacancy**

The MPDC is accepting applications for a civilian Project Manager position in the Compliance Monitoring Team within the Office of Professional Responsibility. The position is primarily responsible for ensuring MPDC compliance with all of the requirements of the Memorandum of Agreement with the US Department of Justice on use-of-force issues. For more information – including job requirements and the application process – go to:

mpdc.dc.gov/about/employ/FA_0305.shtm

- **Drunk Driving Prevention**

To help combat drunk driving over the holidays, the MPDC is conducting sobriety checkpoints and promoting the Holiday SoberRide program, which continues through January 2, 2003. Individuals who have had too much to drink can receive a free cab ride home (up to a \$50 fare) by calling 1-800-200-TAXI. For more details on SoberRide, click on:

www.soberride.com/programs_adult1.html

Information, ideas or comments about this service?

E-mail Kevin Morison, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov.

Would you like to have this information emailed to you? Just go to our web site and register with crimereports.com.

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT WEB PAGE
MPDC.DC.GOV